

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 MCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01
DODE-00 /050 W

-----291530Z 026647 /43

P R 291435Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3296
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CDES (MCCLURE, DONALD), ET, SO

SUBJ: DEATH OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN GODE AREA-- II

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1803 (NOTAL), ADDIS ABABA 1830

1. EMBOFFS SPOKE WITH DONALD MCCLURE, JR., SON OF
DECEASED AMCIT DONALD MCCLURE, WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING
DETAILS ON GODE RAID. MCCLURE STATED THAT AT APPROXIMATE-
LY 0130 MORNING OF MARCH 27, HE WAS AWAKENED BY STRANGE
NOISE AS WAS HIS FATHER. NOISE APPARENTLY CAUSED BY
CUTTING OF SCREEN DOOR BY ARMED ATTACKERS. ELDER MCCLURE
OPENED DOOR AND ALLOWED ATTACKERS TO ENTER, WHO APPARENTLY
KNEW HIS NAME. AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME, GRAHAM
SMITH, AN AUSTRALIAN LIVING WITH HIS FAMILY IN ANOTHER
HOUSE ON SAME COMPOUND, WAS TAKEN BY ATTACKERS AND HELD
WITH MCCLURES.

2. MCCLURE INDICATED ATTACKERS COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO
GROUPS. FIRST GROUP, COMPOSED OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN
DESCRIBED AS "GUERRILLAS" WERE ARMED WITH MILITARY
TYPE WEAPONS AND ONE RPG. SECOND GROUP, ARMED AND
ESTIMATED AT 20 PLUS WERE DESCRIBED AS SHIFTAS
(BANDITS) AND THOROUGHLY LOOTED COMPOUND. BOTH
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GROUPS WEARING SOMALI GARB AND PRIMARY LANGAUGE
SPOKEN WAS SOMALI. ATTACKERS SPOKE FEW WORDS OF
ENGLISH AND ONE ATTACKER REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN
HALTING AMHARIC "I AM AN AMHARA."

3. MCCLURES AND SMITH HELD IN COURTYARD BY
"GUERRILLAS." APPARENT LEADER SAID SOMETHING TO ONE

OF MEN, RECEIVED QUESTIONING REPLY AND SPOKE AGAIN.
AT THAT TIME GUERRILLAS FIRED THREE SHOTS AT POINT BLANK
RANGE, KILLING ELDER MCCLURE. YOUNGER MCCLURE
WAS NOT HIT, RUINED AND FLED WHILE ATTACKERS FIRED AT HIM.
SMITH WAS ENVELOPED BY MUZZLE BLAST AND ALTHOUGH UNHIT, WAS
KNOCKED DOWN AND FEIGNED DEATH.

4. WHILE MCCLURES AND SMITH BEING HELD BY ONE GROUP,
REMAINDER OF GROUP ON COMPOUND, CONSISTING OF EIGHT
WESTERNERS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS, BEING GUARDED
SEPARATELY. WHEN FIRING WHICH KILLED MCCLURE BROKE
OUT, SECOND GROUP OPENED FIRE IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF
FIRST GROUP APPARENTLY BELIEVING THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED.
ONE GUARD TURNED AND FIRED AS HE FLED WOUNDING MRS. SMITH IN LEG.
ALL ATTACKERS THEN FLED.

5. YOUNGER MCCLURE HID IN HILLS FOR NIGHT AND OBSERVED SOME
FIRING FROM NEARBY ETHIOPIAN ARMY OUTPOST.
IT DOES NOT APPEAR DEFENDERS LEFT OUTPOST.
ATTACKING FORCE DID NOT ATTACK OUTPOST, MAIN MILITARY
POST OR TOWN OF GODE ITSELF. GUARD AT COMPOUND STATED
FOLLOWING MORNING THAT ONE OF "BANDITS" WAS SOMALI
KNOWN TO HIM FROM AREA. MCCLURE WAS NOT SURE BUT
STRONGLY SUSPECTS ATTACKERS MAY HAVE INTENDED KILL
ENTIRE GROUP OF ELEVEN WESTERNERS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS.

6. EMBOFF, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH
SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY, RAISED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH
HIM DURING MEETING NOTING REPORT THAT RAIDERS WERE
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"SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY, RAISED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH
HIM DURING MEETING NOTING REPORT THAT RAIDERS WERE
"SOMALI," ATTACKERS KNEW MCCLURE US CITIZEN AND THAT
INCIDENT OBVIOUSLY NOT HELPFUL IN VIEW EFFORTS IM-
PROVE US-SOMALI RELATIONS. SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY
APPEARED CONCERNED OVER INCIDENT AND STATED WHILE
GSDR "OBVIOUSLY HAD NO CONTROL OVER
SUCH MATTERS" HE WOULD REPORT INCIDENT TO
MOGADISCIO AND "SEE IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE."

7. MCCLURE INFORMS US THAT ALL APPROPRIATE PEOPLE
IN US HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED. DEPT NEED THEREFORE
TAKE NO ACTION. IF DEPT IS QUERIED BY PRESS, MCCLURE
WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH MENTION OF HIS FATHER'S
NAME. IF QUERIED HERE, WE PROPOSE CONFIRM MCCLURE'S
DEATH AND STATE THAT HE KILLED DURING A RAID BY
UNIDENTIFIED MEN ON HIS MISSION STATION IN VICINITY
GODE DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 27.
EPMG IS AWARE OF INCIDENT.

8. COMMENT: WHILE EVIDENCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL, IT
WOULD APPEAR "GUERRILLAS" SOMALI EQUIPPED. THEIR
DISCIPLINE ALSO DISTINGUISHS THEM FROM "BANDITS"
WHO PROBABLY OGADEN SOMALIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS01878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-0004
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977039/aaaaahmn.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4c212bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 1803, 77 ADDIS ABABA 1830
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3197984
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN CODE AREA-- II
TAGS: CDES, ET, SO, (MCCLURE, DONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4c212bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009